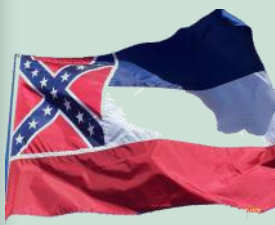




660 North Street, Suite 300  
Jackson, Mississippi 39202  
Phone: 601-359-1386  
Fax: 601-359-1349  
[www.mfc.ms.gov](http://www.mfc.ms.gov)



October 2012



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NINTH CIRCUIT RULES FOREST  
ROADS ARE POLLUTION ... 2

TREE KNOWLEDGE ..... 3

CAPTURE THE MOMENT ... 4

LONGLEAF FIELD DAY ..... 4

CFR TAILGATE AT MSU .. 5

RESIDENTS OCCUPY HIGH-  
RISK AREAS ..... 6

NEW TICK DISEASE ..... 8

WILDLAND ENGINE TRAINING  
FOR SCD & CD ..... 9

THANK YOU ..... 12

SAFETY FIRST ..... 13



# MFC News

*Caring for the Trees and Forests of Mississippi Since 1926*



The Mississippi Forestry Commission provides equal employment opportunities and services to all individuals regardless of disability, race, age, religion, color, gender, national origin, or political affiliation.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

## MISSISSIPPI FLU SEASON BEGINS

Flu season in Mississippi has begun. Now's the time for **all** Mississippians six months and older to get a flu shot. Flu shots are available in many county health departments now, and will be available statewide within days. **Cost:** Flu shots for adults are \$25, and \$10 for those 18 and under. Specialized flu shots, designed to boost immunity for those 65 and over, are available for \$50 and are covered by Medicare part B.

## PREVENT THE FLU

PRACTICE HEALTHY HYGIENE  
AND GET YOUR FLU SHOT



### Newsletter Deadlines

All submissions are welcome. Photographs are encouraged (although space limitations October curtail inclusion). Items must be received by the **10<sup>th</sup> of the month** to be included in the next month's issue. E-mail submissions (*in Microsoft Word*) and photos to

[lharris@mfc.state.ms.us](mailto:lharris@mfc.state.ms.us)

or mail to:

Lisa A. Harris

Mississippi Forestry Commission

822 SCR 115 S

Raleigh, MS 39153

## NINTH CIRCUIT COURT RULES FOREST ROADS ARE POINT SOURCES OF WATER POLLUTION.

David P. Tenny, President and CEO, National Alliance of Forest Owners.

NAFO, recently joined by forestry associations from around the country, submitted its amicus brief to the Supreme Court urging reversal of the Ninth Circuit's ruling that forest roads are point sources of water pollution. NAFO's brief was joined by at least 14 additional amicus briefs in support of reversal, including briefs from the following:

1. 31 state Attorneys General led by Arkansas
2. U.S. Solicitor General
3. National Governors Association joined by five state/local government groups
4. Four Pacific Northwest county groups
5. Ruffed Grouse Society
6. National Federation of Independent Business
7. Society of American Foresters, National Association of State Foresters, Association of Consulting Foresters of America, National Association of Forest Service Re-

tirees, State University of New York ("SUNY") College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Auburn University's School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences, 38 forestry academics, and 2 forestry professionals

8. A group of Law Professors
9. American Farm Bureau Federation and several other agricultural groups
10. National Association of Home Builders and the National Association of Manufacturers
11. U.S. Chamber of Commerce
12. Mountain States Legal Foundation
13. Pacific Legal Foundation on behalf of 18 forestry associations
14. American Forest Resource Council joined by five other forestry associations

Additional parties may file briefs later. Combined with the main briefs filed last week by defendants in the case, NAFO and its allies have presented a compelling case to the Supreme Court for reversal.

Plaintiffs will file their briefs on October 16, and amicus briefs supporting the plaintiffs' position will be filed the following week. The defendants will have an opportunity to file rebuttal briefs thereafter, and the case will proceed to oral argument the first week of December.

Thank you for your continued efforts to help us resolve the forest roads issue. We will keep you updated as circumstances develop further.



Eye of newt, and toe of frog, Wool of bat, and tongue of dog, Adder's fork, and blind-worm's sting, Lizard's leg, and owlet's wing, For a charm of powerful trouble, Like a hell-broth boil and bubble.

---William Shakespeare (a quote from "Macbeth")



## TREE KNOWLEDGE - WHO AM I?



My leaves are simple, alternate and tardily deciduous. They range in size from 2.0" to 3.0" long and 1.0" to 2.0" wide. They are obovate to elliptical in shape and the margin is entire. The apex is rounded and minutely notched while the base is wedge-shaped. They are dark green above and a paler green below. Their surface is shiny, glabrous, leathery above and glabrous below.

My twigs are brown, slender with 3-sided, shield-shaped leaf scars.

My buds are 0.25" long and ovoid in shape and chestnut brown in color.

My fruit is a 2-celled capsule with 2 seeds. It is ovoid to conical in shape and light brown in color.

My flower is monoecious, perfect with in erect racemes near the end of last year's twigs. They are 4.0" to 6.0" long with 5 petals. My petals are white or pinkish in color with nectar glands.

My bark is reddish brown, thin, lustrous and shreddy.

I form multiple stems and can reach a height of 30.0'. I have a moderate growth rate and reach 7' by 20 years. I have a moderate life span of less than 50 years.

I have moderate to intolerant tolerances to shade, moderate tolerance to drought if I am an established plant, and low tolerance to fire.

I am often found in thickets along swamps and pocosins, rich river bottoms and also on exposed sandy ridges in the Gulf states. I prefer a soil texture of medium to coarse with a soil pH of 5.0 to 7.0.

I range from southern Virginia to northern Florida; west to eastern Texas. In Mississippi, I am scattered throughout the state.

I am excellent deer browse and wscap cover. I have a relatively high nutrient value and provide environmental protection for a variety of birds, mammals and aquatic wildlife. Bees are attracted to my flowers.

I have no timber value or uses.

I am an excellent shrub for wet areas in the landscape. I am easy to propagate, as, I send up suckers from my roots. Tip cutting can be started in the spring while root cutting can be started at anytime.

I have a beautiful red fall color as my leaves and seed are persistent.

Who Am I?

Tree Knowledge - Who Am I? for September 2012 was White Basswood (*Tilia Americana* L. var. *heterophylla* (Vent) Loudon) Check out page in the Mississippi Trees book.



## Octobers' Birthdays

Donna Longest --2  
 Joshua Thompson --2  
 Malcolm Baty --3  
 Greg Bobo --4  
 Joseph Nowell --4  
 Roosevelt Bell --6  
 Scott Myrick --6  
 Joiniter Jobe --7  
 Vernon Cooper --8  
 James Johnson --9  
 Joseph Kleis --9  
 Joe Harris --10  
 Gary Alldread --13  
 Berbin Roland --14  
 Christopher Sachs --14  
 Andy Duvall --15  
 Bretta Palmer --16  
 Sandra Clark --17  
 Jaret Prestage --17  
 Christopher Givens --19  
 Kevin Craft --20  
 John Mord --22  
 Randolph Bowles --23  
 Thaddeus Crowell --24  
 Lee Eaton --26  
 Robert Jolley --26  
 Timothy Holder --27  
 John Johnson --27  
 James Johnson --30  
 Daniel Dancer --31  
 Wade Ladner --31



## Personnel Personals



- ☺ Thomas Parker, Forest Ranger, Stone County, SED.
- ☺ Brandie M. Allred, Administrative Assistant, Lee County, NED.



## Gone Fish- in'

- ☺ Wilfred Wayne Wesley, Equipment Mechanic, Grenada County, NWD.
- ☺ Charles Compliment, Pilot, Stone County, SED.



Please keep James Bryant in your thoughts and prayers as he and his family adjust to the loss of his wife, Jane Bryant, to cancer. Jane passed away on Wednesday, September 12, 2012.

## CAPTURE THE MOMENT!

The 2012, Mississippi Forestry Association Annual Meeting will be held on October 17-19, at the BancorpSouth Conference Center & Arena in Tupelo, MS.

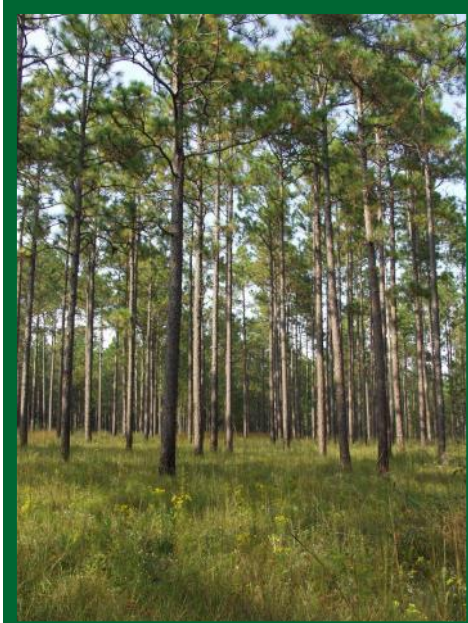


For more information, click this link: <http://library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1102557710532-485/2012meetingannouncementaug16.pdf>. We accept registrations by fax and email for those paying by credit card; and by mail for check or credit card payments. Sorry, no online registration this year. Members are encouraged to take advantage of the early registration discount must be received by MFA by September 17. The standard fee will be in effect for registrations received between September 17 and October 10. After October 10, meeting registrations must be made on-site at the conference center and a \$25 late fee will be assessed. Refunds will only be made if MFA is notified of cancellations by October 10.

### Hotel Information

Overnight rooms are available at the Hilton Garden Inn adjoining the conference facilities at \$115 per night, double or single. To make reservations call 662-718-5500 and ask for the Mississippi Forestry Association room block. Additional rooms are available at the Courtyard by Marriott (1320 North Gloster Street) for a \$99 per night room rate. To reserve a room at the Courtyard call 662-841-9960. Room reservations should be made by **September 17** to be assured of these per night rates.

## LONGLEAF FIELD DAY!



The Jones County Forestry Association is sponsoring the Mississippi Longleaf Pine Field Day on October 30, 2012.

This professional presentation will be held at Jones County Junior College Advanced Technology Center, 72 Technology Blvd, Ellisville, MS 39437. Contact Kim Tolbert at (601) 428-5201 or [ktolbert@ext.msstate.edu](mailto:ktolbert@ext.msstate.edu) for more information.

[Click here](#) for more information.



## CFR ALUMNI & FRIENDS HOMECOMING TAILGATE AT MSU

Join us in Starkville at Thompson Hall **October 20th** for the

### *CFR Alumni & Friends Homecoming Tailgate*



You can register [here](#). We look forward to visiting with you and cheering on our Bulldogs!!! The College of Forest Resources is pleased to invite you and your family to watch the Bulldogs and visit with fellow alums, professors, and staff at the 2012 CFR Alumni and Friends Homecoming Tailgate Reunion. The tailgate is scheduled for October 20 in the Johnson Courtyard at Thompson Hall. The Bulldogs will take on Middle Tennessee for a Homecoming match you will not want to miss.

The time of the game is not yet available, however, the tailgate will occur approximately 3 hours prior to kick-off.

The tailgate is free of charge and food / drinks will be provided at the tailgate. The CFR no longer has tickets available, however, tickets may be purchased through the [MSU Athletic web site](#).

Parking is available at the Franklin Furniture Center. A shuttle will run from the Franklin Furniture Center both before and after the game. Other parking is available throughout Starkville and on campus. Please refer to the [MSU Athletic web site](#) for other parking options.



## ***Moving On***

- \* Jimmy Ray Owen, Forest Ranger, Capital District.
- \* Jonathan McKinnon, Forest Ranger, Holmes, County, NWD.
- \* Terrance Fells, Forest Ranger, Jefferson County, SWD.
- \* William Cull Dees, Forest Ranger, Grenada County, NWD.
- \* William Mealey, Forest Ranger, Wilkerson County, SWD.



## ***Moving Up and/ or Around***

- ☺ Richard McInnis, from District Forester to Forest Management Chief
- ☺ Mac Ables from Service Forester to ADF in NWD
- ☺ Jon Mark Williams from ADF to District Forester in NWD
- ☺ Sam Gural from Forestry Technician to Service Forester for Madison County in CD



## RESIDENTS OCCUPY HIGH-RISK AREAS

Jennifer Oldham, Bloomberg News.

Almost 40 percent of new homes in the U.S. in the past decade were built in what's known as the "wildland-urban interface," or residential communities bordering forests or grass lands. Fires in these zones are often ignited by humans using chain saws, firing guns or driving cars that backfire, fueling growth in the number, intensity and average size of blazes and multiplying losses.

### \$3 Billion

About a third of the \$3 billion used to fight such blazes each year goes toward defending homes in high-risk areas -- double the cost of a decade ago, said Ray Rasker, executive director of Bozeman, Montana-based Headwaters Economics, a research firm that analyzes the costs of wildfires.

The financial effects of wildfires on municipalities last for years. Burned homes decrease property values, causing counties to lose hundreds of thousands in tax revenue that in many cases is dedicated to financing local fire districts.

Wildfires also strain state and local resources. City departments lack equipment and gear to fight forest fires, and volunteers who often battle blazes on federal lands are dwindling in number.

When people are building houses in single increments, the revenue tax base isn't there for expansion of their fire departments," said

Bob Roper, a retired Ventura County, California, chief. "We end up stretching the limited resources we have up front with high expectations that the fire service will be there when a fire happens."

### Funding Dwindling

Federal funding dedicated to training and equipping local departments to fight wildfires and helping communities draft protection plans is dwindling even as development continues. Homes exist on only 20 percent of the land in the West's wildland-urban interface, Rasker said.

"We're just starting to see the very beginnings of how big this problem is going to get," he added.

Funding for federal programs fell 25 percent to \$73 million proposed in fiscal 2013, from \$97 million in fiscal 2011, said Jake Donnay, senior director of forest policy at the Washington-based National Assn. of State Foresters.

### 'Snowball Effect'

"We're pulling from our fuel reduction and prevention programs to pay for suppression," said Jim Karels, state forester for Florida, where 18 million people live among 26 million fire-prone acres. "It has a snowball effect which makes it worse each year."

In Oklahoma, fire departments are struggling to protect homes built in the past decade in unincorporated forested areas and grass-

lands outside Tulsa and Oklahoma City that lack building codes requiring non-flammable materials.

"There are million-dollar plus homes built in rural areas on dirt roads -- it's hard to get fire equipment there," said Robert Doke, Oklahoma's fire marshal. "There's a lack of high-pressure water lines for the fire hydrants and these structures are built with more lightweight laminates, which causes them to burn quicker."

In New Hampshire, officials worry that a boom in second-home construction by New Englanders in the White Mountains is a conflagration waiting to happen.

"If we get a real dry spell, I think there will be significant threat to loss of property and life," said Bill Degnan, New Hampshire's fire marshal. "If we have one major incident, we all end up paying for it."

### Financial Impact

The financial impact can last for years. In Boulder, Colorado, where the Fourmile Canyon blaze burned 169 homes in a wooded area northwest of the city in 2010, the county lost about \$100 million in property value, said Jerry Roberts, the county's assessor.

"We lost \$823,000 a year in property tax collections," he said. "These little volunteer fire districts operate on very low budgets and all of a sudden a fire comes through and

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

it wipes out their tax base.”

As many as 66,000 communities nationwide are at-risk of a wildland fire, yet only 5.4 percent of these are protected by voluntary fire protection plans or ordinances, according to a report released in January by the National Association of State Foresters.

Even states that mandate defensible space -- like California, where firefighters can fine homeowners in areas protected by Cal Fire if they don't clear 100 feet around their homes -- rules are not consistently enforced, said Ray Moritz, a San Rafael, California-based fire ecologist.

### 'Defensible Space'

“The vast majority of homes I look at do not meet defensible space guidelines,” said Moritz, a former firefighter. “On a certain level, firefighter associations are unwilling to alienate the public by enforcing the codes.”

About 770 communities in 40 states use the Firewise Communities Program, created by the non-profit National Fire Protection Association in 2002, to help them write plans to protect homeowners and businesses. These measures aren't cheap to enact.

In Colorado Springs, the state's second-largest city, nestled against the foothills at the base of Pikes Peak, firefighters on the Waldo Canyon blaze credited a decade of work to enact Firewise policies in neighborhoods ringing the city, as

well as an ordinance that requires new homes be built with non-flammable roofs, with saving many residences.

### \$300,000 Grant

In the city's southwest, Cedar Heights residents relied on a \$300,000 grant from Federal Emergency Management Agency to help clear 100 acres of parkland atop the community of a tangle of dead scrub and gamble oak and pine trees.

The effort, which homeowners were required to match by thinning trees and vegetation around 190 homes with expansive views of the city, saved the neighborhood, whose motto is “Minutes Away, Worlds Apart.”

“The mitigation effort was very critical to the fire department's ability to control and stop the fire before it got to Cedar Heights,” said Dick Standaert, who lives in the neighborhood.

Many communities are resistant to Firewise, which seeks to teach homeowners that blazes are ignited by embers fueled by pine needles in gutters, cushions on deck chairs, mulch around flower beds and fences surrounding properties, said Michele Steinberg, Firewise Communities Program manager.

“There's a lot of denial about the actual risk that exists,” she said.

In Mississippi, we have five

## Did You Know?

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. This year's theme, “Have 2 Ways Out!”, focuses on the importance of fire escape planning and practice.

certificated Firewise Communities/USA as of October 2012. These communities are Snow Lakes Shores, Lake; Hillsdale Property Owners' Association; the town of Gloster, Mississippi, the town of Noxapater, Mississippi and the town Ethel, Mississippi. The MFC is currently working with the High Hill Community in Pearl River County and the towns of Iuka and Georgetown to become certificated Firewise Community/USA.

For more information on Firewise or how to become a Firewise Community/USA, contact Leslie G. “Opie” Blackwell at (601) 267-3207 or lblackwell@mfc.state.ms.us.

*Remember... Your Home Does Not Have To Burn...Be Firewise Mississippi.*





## BEWARE!!! NEW TICK-BORNE DISEASE FOUND

By Daniel J. DeNoon, WebMD Health News

Aug. 29, 2012 – A new virus, dubbed "Heartland virus," is being spread to people by ticks common in the Southeast, the CDC reports.

The only known cases are two northwestern Missouri men who fell ill in 2009. Ticks had bitten both men, but they did not get better after treatment with antibiotics. Tests later showed that the men did not have any tick-borne bacterial diseases.

But CDC researcher Laura K. McMullan, PhD, and colleagues did find something else: a previously unknown virus in the patients' blood.

"This virus could be a more common cause of human illness than is currently recognized," they suggest in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The two men, one age 57 and the other age 67, lived on different farms. The first had only a single tick bite. The second said that over a two-week period he'd received some 20 tick bites a day.

Both men had fever, fatigue, diarrhea, and low levels of blood platelets and white blood cells. The symptoms are similar to those of ehrlichiosis, a relatively common tick-borne disease that is caused by bacteria.

The first patient spent 10 days in the hospital. Two years later,

he's still feeling tired and often has headaches. At first he had memory problems and loss of appetite, both of which slowly got better.

The second patient was in the hospital for 12 days. Over the next four to six weeks he had memory problems, fatigue, and loss of appetite. All of these symptoms went away and did not come back over the next two years.

### Questions Remain

The new virus is related to a tick-borne virus recently discovered in central and northeastern China. That virus, called SFTSV, causes fever and loss of blood platelets.

The most common ticks in northwestern Missouri, where the two men were infected with Heartland virus, are lone star ticks. These ticks are found throughout the Southeast and up the Atlantic coast to Maine. The Lonestar Tick already carries three diseases: ehrlichiosis, Southern tick-associated rash illness, and tularemia.

No ticks carrying Heartland virus have been found. It's not clear whether a person infected with the new virus can spread it to another person, or whether a tick bite is necessary.

"Although these two patients had severe disease, the incidence of infection with the novel virus and range of disease severity are currently unknown," McMullan and colleagues write.

They warn health professionals to be on the lookout for people who fall ill after getting tick bites and who do not get better after antibiotic treatment.

As with all tick-borne illnesses, the CDC recommends avoiding wooded and bushy areas with high grass and leaves, using repellents with 20 percent or more DEET, using permethrin on clothing, gear (boots, socks, tents), and always check your body after coming in from outdoor excursions. Ticks can also be on pets or clothing, so it is important to check your pets and to wash your cloths on high heat. Permethrin products should be used with caution around house cats as it is highly toxic to them.





## 2012 SUMMER WILDLAND ENGINE TRAINING (SOUTH CENTRAL & CAPITAL DISTRICTS)

By: Ed Brown, Southern Region Training Officer.

The training arm of the Business Support Division never rests when it comes to safely training our MFC Wildland Firefighters. Our goal is to have the most fully qualified Wildland Fire Fighter to meet the hazardous job of suppressing wildfires in the State of Mississippi. We also extend our assistance outside our state boundaries to our neighboring States when the fire suppression need arises. OUR MOTTO: "SAFETY COMRS FIRST! ON EVERY FIRE, EVERY TIME.

In July 2012, the South Central & Capital Districts scheduled the S-231 Engine Boss Course on the Bienville National Forest in Scott County. The U.S. Forest Service is one of our cooperators when wildland fire training is needed and they offer their work center and facilities to conduct our training. The instructors for this course were Paul Tadlock, ADF, South Central District and myself. The training agenda for the next two days was very busy and informative. Day number one starts off with what is required of an Engine Boss and the equipment needed on a Type Six Wildland Engine to suppress wildfires according to National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group standards. The day also consists of the Engine's

maintenance (4x4 One Ton Crew Cab Pickup) and the Pump, Pump Motor & Water Tank capacity. Fire hose size and hose fittings are discussed throughout the day. The Incident Command System, New MFC Radio System, Incident Action Plan (IAP), and Wildland Fire tactics are instructed. A wildland fire simulation was planned for day number two of this training

Day Number Two was started early that morning to take advantage of the heat. The training site was the Scott County Coliseum Property. Mississippi Forestry Commission Wildland Fire Engines were from the Capital District's counties of Copiah, Hinds, & Rankin. The South Central District's Wildland Fire Engines counties were from Lauderdale, Newton, Smith, Jones, & Jasper.

The training consisted of the Operations Safety Briefing using the ICS Incident Action Plan. The Wildland Fire Engines laid fire hose to protect structures threatened by the simulated wildfire. Also the Wildland Engines suppressed the wildfire using existing roads, safely operating in moderate topography, and wildland fire fuels (Short Grass) simulations.

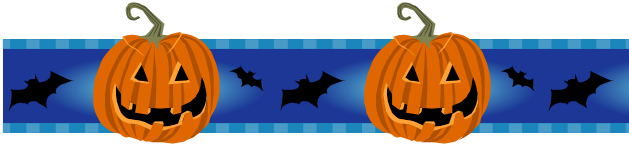
The two days of Wildland Engine Boss Course was conducted with

Safety being our number priority, safely suppressing the wildfire, and protecting structures from the threat of wildfire. The MFC Wildland Firefighters left with on-the-job training, safely suppressing wildfires, and knowledge of operating the Type Six Wildland Fire Engines in wildland fire situations in Mississippi

### Did You Know?

Remember Hurricane Nadine? After traveling for over three weeks across the eastern Atlantic, affecting the Azores twice and after 88 National Hurricane Center advisories, Nadine has finally dissipated. Pending a post-storm analysis, Nadine will tie Ginger of 1971 as the second-longest-lasting Atlantic tropical storm on record at 21.25 days. As a tropical cyclone, which includes the tropical depression stage, it is the fifth-longest-lasting tropical cyclone on record in the basin at 21.75 days.





# Happy Halloween

## 2012 SUMMER WILDLAND ENGINE TRAINING







# Have You Seen This Billboard?





Dear Garron,

THANK YOU for helping us make the 2012 Children's Health Fair a HUGE success! Saturday's crowd was larger than ever! We had **43 vendors** and close to **1000 people in attendance**! The success of this event can only be attributed to you– the vendors and volunteers who went above and beyond to ensure the Oxford area families stay educated on healthier life-styles for their children. Everyone really enjoyed themselves. We sincerely appreciate your continued support of the fair and the youth in our community!

Our goal is to make this event **BIGGER AND BETTER** every year. I hope you all will be able to join us again on **August 24, 2013** to help us try top this year's Health Fair! I would greatly appreciate you taking time to evaluate the fair and give us some good suggestions for future fairs. We welcome your ideas, and we will certainly use them to better meet the needs of exhibitors and fair participants. If you have any other suggestions to improve the fair, please email me at [clayton.kelly@bmhcc.org](mailto:clayton.kelly@bmhcc.org).

I'm so glad we were able to add you all in! The wrist bands and Smokey were a HUGE hit with the kids! Thank you again!

Sincerely,  
Clayton Kelly  
Community Relations Coordinator  
Baptist Memorial Hospital– North Mississippi

Clayton Kelly  
Community Relations Coordinator  
Baptist Memorial Hospital- North Mississippi  
[Clayton.Kelly@BMHCC.org](mailto:Clayton.Kelly@BMHCC.org)  
Tel: (662)232-8109  
Fax: (662) 232-8391

*Opinions expressed above are not necessarily those of BMHCC."*



# Safety First . . .

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween is a wonderful holiday, but because of increased foot traffic and that Trick-or-Treaters are out at night, the potential for automobile related accidents with young pedestrians increases four times on this night according to a CDC (Center for Disease Control) study.

Streets are literally crawling with all sorts of witches, ghosts, goblins, vampires and all other sorts of costumed people. This makes for added responsibility for drivers to make sure that they drive safer than normal.

In many areas, people drive their kids into subdivisions and let them out to walk from house to house. Usually the parent follows behind in the car. This can cause traffic jams in small areas and much confusion as kids dart between cars on the streets going from house to house. A driver is already distracted because they are trying to keep an eye on their own kids and usually aren't paying attention to much else.

Children and adults tend to be preoccupied and may not pay as much attention to safety as they should. They may not see your vehicle or just assume that you see them automatically. Stay on the defensive and you shouldn't have a problem while driving on Halloween night.

Don't use a cell phone or other electronic device while driving on Halloween night. You shouldn't be doing this anyway, the rate of cell phone related auto accidents has jumped dramatically since the use of cell phones and texting has risen so high. Some states have already made laws concerning this and others are working on it.

Pay extra attention, particularly to crosswalks, intersections and the side of the road. Kids tend to walk along the curbs, cutting across the street to get to other homes. Keep scanning all around you as you drive, whether as thru traffic or along with your kids as they trick-or-treat.

Drive below the posted speed limit in residential areas during trick-or-treating hours. This will allow you time to break if you see a child dart in front of you.

Do not pass other vehicles that have stopped in the roadway, they could be dropping off children. This is more common in rural areas but can happen anywhere.

Instruct your child to never get into the car of a stranger. It might be easy for your child to mistake someone else's car your car with the excitement of Halloween. Put a lighted plastic Jack-O-Lantern on your dashboard to make your car more recognizable to your child.

It's also a night that child predators are looking for victims. Let your child know that they should never get into the car of a stranger at any time. If someone stops them and asks for help or offers them candy, tell them to scream as loud as they can and run.

Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars. Let them know if they carry a flash light to never shine it in the eyes of a driver. This can cause blindness on the drivers part temporarily and they may not see your child.

If you are dropping off or picking up your kids in an area, pull off the road into a safe spot and turn on your hazard lights to alert other motorists. If you go with your kids from door to door, leave the hazard lights on so other drivers can see your car parked there.



## *First Time, Every Time*